IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for restraining deformation of a nip roll, which is used to restrain deformation of first and second nip rolls which nip a sheet material, ~~wherein~~ the method comprising:

setting a ~~the~~ diameter ratio between said first and second nip rolls ~~is set~~ at a value different from 1; and

setting the diameter ratio between said first and second nip rolls so that when a number of polygon sides of polygonal deformation of said first nip roll, which is defined by a ratio of the frequency of a vibration system including said rolls to a rotational speed of said first nip roll, is an integer N_1, a number of polygon sides of said second nip roll, which is defined by the ratio of the frequency of said vibration system to a rotational speed of said second nip roll, has the following value:

$$N_1 \pm j + a$$

where, $j = 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots$

$0 < a < 1$.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method for restraining deformation of a nip roll according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said constant a is set at 0.1 to 0.9.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method for restraining deformation of a nip roll according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said constant a is set at 0.5.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method for restraining deformation of a nip roll according to any one of claims 1, 3 and ~~to~~ 4, ~~wherein~~ including providing said first and second nip rolls ~~are nip rolls provided~~ in a paper-making machine or a printing machine.